

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-25. (Cancelled)

26. (Currently amended) A disposable absorbent article comprising:

an absorbent structure including an absorbent core;

opposite side flaps laterally extending from opposite side edges of said absorbent structure; and

opposite standing cuffs located longitudinally at opposite lateral sides of said absorbent structure so as to be provided separately from said absorbent structure and from said side flap, wherein

each of said standing cuffs has a free portion adapted to contact a wearer's leg,

said free portion is provided with stretching members for applying stretching force to said free portion so that said free portion extends in a direction toward the wearer's leg when the wearer wears said article,

said free portion comprises a base portion attached to said side flap, a folding portion located at a longitudinal centerline-side with respect to said base portion, a standing portion located between said base portion and said folding portion, a contacting portion folded back at said folding portion so as to extend laterally outward away from a longitudinal centerline and adapted to contact the wearer's leg,

two or more said stretching members are arranged in the vicinity of a distal end of said contacting portion so as to be spaced from each other,

at least one ~~two or more~~ said stretching member is arranged in the vicinity of a proximal end of said base portion ~~standing portion so as to be spaced from each other in a direction from said proximal end base line to said folding portion,~~

at least one said stretching member is arranged in the vicinity of said folding portion, and

when the wearer wears said article, said standing portion extends in a substantially vertical direction so that each of said standing cuffs extends in a direction toward the wearer's leg due to stretching force of said stretching members, while each of said side flaps between the side edge of said absorbent structure and said base portion of said free portion is deformed.

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Previously presented) The disposable absorbent article as defined in Claim 26, wherein at a front end portion and at a back end portion in a longitudinal direction of said disposable absorbent article, said standing portion is attached on said article so as to extend in a direction toward the longitudinal centerline of said article, and said contacting portion is attached on said standing portion so as to fold back upon said standing portion.

Claims 29-31. (Cancelled)

32. (Previously presented) A disposable absorbent article comprising:

an absorbent structure including an absorbent core disposed between a liquid pervious sheet on its wearer's side and a liquid impervious sheet on its back side;

opposite side flaps laterally extending from opposite side edges of said absorbent structure;

opposite standing cuffs located longitudinally at the opposite lateral sides of said absorbent structure so as to be provided separately from said absorbent structure and from said side flap, wherein

each of said standing cuffs has a free portion adapted to contact a wearer's leg,

said free portion has a base portion attached to said side flap, comprises a two-layer sheet and a water proof sheet disposed between layers of the two-layer sheet, and extends from said base portion with a direction toward the longitudinal centerline of said article,

two or more stretching members, which apply stretching force to said free portion so that said free portion extends in a direction toward a wearer when the wearer wears said article, are arranged in the vicinity of a distal end of said free portion so as to be spaced from each other and are arranged in the vicinity of a proximal end of said base portion so as to be spaced from each other,

an effective stretching length of every said stretching member arranged in the vicinity of the proximal end of said base portion is shorter than that of every said stretching member arranged in the vicinity of the distal end of said free portion,

when the elongation of a portion in the vicinity of the distal end of said free portion is 60% to 150%, the stretching stress of said portion in the vicinity of said distal end is 0.10 N to 1.30 N (per the width of 15 mm and the length of 100 mm) and when the elongation of a portion in the vicinity of the proximal end of said base portion is 60% to 150%, the stretching stress of

said portion in the vicinity of the proximal end of said base portion is 0.20 N to 2.00 N (per the width of 15 mm and the length of 100 mm) so that said stretching stress of said portion in the vicinity of said proximal end is greater than said stretching stress of said portion in the vicinity of said distal end,

between said absorbent structure and said liquid impervious sheet, stretching members for lifting are arranged in a longitudinal direction of said disposable absorbent article at its opposite sides while each of said stretching members for lifting is located at a longitudinal centerline-side with respect to the base portion of said free portion, and

in the side view of the article, each of said standing cuffs extends so as to form a sector shape in its freely contracted state, and when the wearer wears the article, a distal edge of said standing cuff is brought into contact with low pressure at its front and back end-sides, while the distal edge of said standing cuff is brought into contact with relatively high pressure at its central portion and a distal edge of said standing cuff extends to a small height at its front and back end-sides, while the distal edge of said standing cuff extends to a relatively large height at its central portion for contacting the wearer's leg so that side-leakage that would tend to happen at said central portion of the distal edge of the standing cuff in particular can be coped with adequately.

33. (Previously Presented) The disposable absorbent article as defined in Claim 32, wherein the height of said free portion is at least 10 mm.

34. (Cancelled)

35. (Cancelled)

36. (Cancelled)

37. (Previously presented) The disposable absorbent article as defined in Claim 26, wherein a plane-gathering cuff is provided outboard with respect to each of said standing cuffs.

38. (Previously presented) The disposable absorbent article as defined in Claim 26, wherein a plane-gathering cuff is not provided outboard with respect to each of said standing cuffs.

39. (Previously presented) The disposable absorbent article as defined in Claim 32, wherein

said liquid pervious sheet extends in the longitudinal direction beyond said absorbent structure to form a waist flap,

means for gathering is not provided on said waist flap,

at least one standing cuff for a wearer's waist is provided, said standing cuff has a free portion adapted to contact a wearer's waist,

said free portion of said standing cuff for the wearer's waist comprises a sheet attached, at a base portion of said free portion, to said waist flap so as to be provided separately from said waist flap and extends from said base portion along said waist flap,

said free portion of said standing cuff for the wearer's waist comprises two or more stretching members for applying stretching force to said free portion so that said free portion of said standing cuff for the wearer's waist extends over said absorbent structure and contacts the wearer's waist when the wearer wears said article,

two or more said stretching members extend in the vicinity of a distal end of said free portion in said standing cuff for the wearer's waist so as to be spaced from each other and two or more said stretching members extend in the vicinity of a proximal end of said base portion of said free portion in said standing cuff for the wearer's waist so as to be spaced from each other, and

each of said stretching members extending in the vicinity of said proximal end of said base portion has contraction force greater than contraction force of each of said stretching members extending in the vicinity of said distal end of said free portion.

40. (Cancelled)

41. (Previously Presented) The disposable absorbent article as defined in Claim 39, wherein said free portion of said standing cuff has the longitudinal length of at least 10 mm.

42. (Previously presented) The disposable absorbent article as defined in Claim 39, wherein

when the elongation of a portion provided with said stretching members extending in the vicinity of the distal end of said free portion of said standing cuff for the wearer's waist is 20% to 90%, a stretching stress of said portion provided with said stretching members extending

in the vicinity of the distal end is 0.05 N to 1.00 N (per the width of 15 mm and the length of 100 mm),

when the elongation of a portion provided with said stretching members extending in the vicinity of the proximal end of said base portion of said free portion in said standing cuff for the wearer's waist is 20% to 90%, a stretching stress of said portion provided with said stretching members extending in the vicinity of the proximal end is 0.10 N to 1.50 N (per the width of 15 mm and the length of 100 mm), and

said stretching stress of said latter portion is larger than that of said former portion so that said standing cuff for the wearer's waist extends almost vertically.

43. (Previously presented) The disposable absorbent article as defined in Claim 39, wherein

a distance between a proximal end of said free portion and a distal edge of said waist flap is from 1 mm to 40 mm.

44. (Previously presented) The disposable absorbent article as defined in Claim 39, wherein

the sheet of said free portion of said standing cuff for the wearer's waist is a two-layer sheet, and

said stretching members are fixed between layers of the two-layer-sheet.

45. (Previously presented) The disposable absorbent article as defined in Claim 44, wherein

a water proof sheet is disposed between layers of said two-layer sheet.

46. (Cancelled)

47. (Cancelled)

48. (Previously presented) The disposable absorbent article as defined in Claim 26, wherein said folding portion is located outside of an area located over said absorbent structure.

49. (Previously presented) The disposable absorbent article as defined in Claim 26, wherein:

said absorbent structure is disposed between a liquid pervious sheet on its wearer's side and a liquid impervious sheet on its back side and a back sheet is further provided on the back side of said liquid impervious sheet; and

said liquid impervious sheet extends outwardly in a lateral direction beyond the opposite side edges of said absorbent structure to form opposite laterally extended portions and in each of said laterally extended portions, said free portion of said standing cuff extends from said liquid impervious sheet.

50. (Previously presented) The disposable absorbent article as defined in Claim 49, wherein in leg portions which are to encircle the wearer's legs, said liquid pervious sheet and said liquid impervious sheet extend outwardly in a lateral direction beyond the opposite side

edges of said absorbent structure to form opposite laterally extended portions, and in each of said opposite laterally extended portions, said free portion of said standing cuff extends from said liquid pervious sheet.

51. (Previously presented) The disposable absorbent article as defined in Claim 26, wherein each of all stretching members arranged in the vicinity of said distal end of said contacting portion has 400 d to 640 d and the contraction percentage of 160% to 300% and each of all stretching members arranged between said proximal end of said standing portion and said folding portion has 640 d to 2100 d and the contraction percentage of 150% to 250%.

52. (Previously presented) The disposable absorbent article as defined in Claim 26, wherein

said absorbent structure is disposed between a liquid pervious sheet on its wearer's side and a liquid impervious sheet on its back side,

said absorbent core of said structure is coated with an absorbing top tissue paper and an absorbing back tissue paper,

said absorbing top tissue paper extends outwardly in a lateral direction beyond opposite side edges of said absorbent structure to form opposite laterally extended portions,

said absorbing back tissue paper extends outwardly in the lateral direction beyond opposite side edges of said absorbent structure to form opposite laterally extended portions, and

between said opposite laterally extended portions of said absorbing top tissue paper and said opposite laterally extended portions of said absorbing back tissue paper, correspondingly, stretching members for lifting are arranged in a longitudinal direction of said

disposable absorbent article at its opposite sides while each of said stretching members for lifting is located at the longitudinal centerline-side of said disposable absorbent article with respect to the base portion of said free portion.

53. (Previously presented) The disposable absorbent article as defined in Claim 26, wherein

said absorbent structure is disposed between a liquid pervious sheet on its wearer's side and a liquid impervious sheet on its back side, and

between said absorbent structure and said liquid impervious sheet, stretching members for lifting are arranged in a longitudinal direction of said disposable absorbent article at its opposite sides while each of said stretching members for lifting is located at the longitudinal centerline-side of said disposable absorbent article with respect to said base portion of said free portion.

54. (Previously presented) The disposable absorbent article as defined in Claim 53, wherein in leg portions which are to encircle said wearer's legs, said stretching members for lifting are not superposed on the narrow portions of the absorbent core of said absorbent structure, while in front end and back end of said disposable absorbent article in the longitudinal direction, said stretching members for lifting are superposed on said absorbent core of said absorbent structure.

55. (Previously presented) The disposable absorbent article as defined in Claim 26, wherein stretching members for lifting are arranged in a longitudinal direction of said

disposable absorbent article at its opposite sides so as to be in said absorbent core of said absorbent structure while each of said stretching members for lifting is located at the longitudinal centerline-side of said disposable absorbent article with respect to said base portion of said free portion.

56. (Previously presented) The disposable absorbent article as defined in Claim 32, wherein

said absorbent core of said structure is coated with an absorbing top tissue paper and an absorbing back tissue paper,

said absorbing top tissue paper extends outwardly in a lateral direction beyond opposite side edges of said absorbent structure to form opposite laterally extended portions,

said absorbing back tissue paper extends outwardly in a lateral direction beyond opposite side edges of said absorbent structure to form opposite laterally extended portions, and

between said opposite laterally extended portions of said absorbing top tissue paper and said opposite laterally extended portions of said absorbing back tissue paper, correspondingly, stretching members for lifting are arranged in a longitudinal direction of said disposable absorbent article at its opposite sides while each of said stretching members is located at the longitudinal centerline-side of said disposable absorbent article with respect to the base portion of said free portion.

57. (Previously presented) The disposable absorbent article as defined in Claim 32, wherein in leg portions which are to encircle said wearer's legs, said stretching members for lifting are not superposed on the narrow portions of the absorbent core of said absorbent

structure, while in front end and back end of said disposable absorbent article in the longitudinal direction, said stretching members for lifting are superposed on said absorbent core of said absorbent structure.

58. (Previously presented) The disposable absorbent article as defined in Claim 32, wherein said stretching members for lifting are arranged in the longitudinal direction of said disposable absorbent article at its opposite sides so as to be in said absorbent core of said absorbent structure while each of said stretching members for lifting is located at the longitudinal centerline-side of said disposable absorbent article with respect to the base portion of said free portion.

59. (Previously presented) A disposable absorbent article comprising:
an absorbent structure including an absorbent core;
side flaps laterally extending from opposite side edges of said absorbent structure; and
standing cuffs located longitudinally at opposite lateral sides of said absorbent structure so as to be provided separately from said absorbent structure and from said side flap, wherein

said absorbent structure is disposed between a liquid pervious sheet on its wearer's side and a liquid impervious sheet on its back side, and a back sheet is further provided on the back side of said liquid impervious sheet,

each of said standing cuffs has a free portion adapted to contact a wearer's leg,

said free portion is provided with stretching members for applying stretching force to said free portion so that said free portion extends in a direction toward the wearer's leg when the wearer wears said article,

said free portion comprises a base portion attached to said side flap, a contacting portion adapted to contact the wearer's leg,

two or more said stretching members are arranged in the vicinity of a distal end of said contacting portion so as to be spaced from each other, and

between said absorbent structure and said back sheet, stretching members for lifting are arranged at the opposite sides of said disposable absorbent article, and in leg portions which are to encircle said wearer's legs, said stretching members for lifting are not superposed on narrow portions of the absorbent core of said absorbent structure, while in front end and back end of said disposable absorbent article in the longitudinal direction, said stretching members for lifting are superposed on said absorbent core of said absorbent structure.

60. (Previously presented) The disposable absorbent article as defined in Claim 59, wherein

said free portion comprises said base portion attached to said side flap, a folding portion located at a longitudinal centerline-side with respect to said base portion, a standing portion located between said base portion and said folding portion, said contacting portion folded back at said folding portion so as to extend laterally outward away from a longitudinal centerline and adapted to contact the wearer's leg and

two or more said stretching members are arranged in the vicinity of the distal end of said contacting portion so as to be spaced from each other,

at least one stretching member is further arranged in the vicinity of said folding portion.

61. (Previously presented) The disposable absorbent as defined in Claim 59, wherein said stretching members for lifting are arranged in the longitudinal direction of said disposable absorbent article at its opposite sides so as to be in said absorbent core of said absorbent structure while each of said stretching members for lifting is located at the longitudinal centerline-side of said disposable absorbent article with respect to said base portion of said free portion.